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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,953	03/31/2004	Terry Dietz	1671-0293	8391

7590 01/29/2007  
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EXAMINER	
PHILOGENE, PEDRO	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3733	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/29/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/814,953	DIETZ ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Pedro Philogene	3733	

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  . Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-8, 12 and 13 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) 9-11 is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/31/04, 6/24/05/12/20/06, 8/7/06.  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8,12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kovacevic et al. (2003/0069644).

With respect to the claims, Kavocevic et al disclose in a telemetric knee prosthesis adapted to measure forces transmitted across the knee joint, the knee prosthesis having a femoral component, a tibial bearing member in articulating contact with the femoral component, a tibia engaging member and a tibial tray engaged to the tibial bearing member and the tibia engaging member, as best seen in FIG.1, the tibial tray comprising an upper plate (38) having a portion configured for engaging the tibial bearing member; a lower plate (40) having a portion configured for engaging the tibia engaging member, the lower plate spaced apart from the upper plate and defining a plurality of cavities opening (60,62,64,66) away from the upper plate, each of the cavities including a diaphragm adapted to flex when subjected to a load normal to the diaphragm, as best seen in the FIGS; a plurality of support post (42) each connected between the upper plate and the diaphragm of a corresponding one of the cavities; and a force sensing element (80) disposed within each of the plurality of cavities and operable to produce an output signal in response to flexing of the diaphragm, a circuit element , as best seen in FIG.8, disposed in the central cavity for processing the output

signal from the force sensing element in each of the plurality of cavities; wherein each of the plurality of wiring channels is aligned at about 45 degrees relative to a parallel plane; as best seen in FIG.8. The strain gage of Kavocevic et al extends from the inner cavity to the outer wall.

It is noted that the reference is silent about the cross-section of the support post; as claimed by applicant. However, absent from any conclusive statements concerning unexpected or unobvious results obtained from changing the cross section of the support post, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the support post of Kavacevic et al, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in shape of a component. A change in shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955).

As to the support post having a particular diameter, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a support post having diameter of about 5.0 mm and a diameter that is 1/3 the diameter of the corresponding cavity, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F. 2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

As to the sensing element including four pairs of radially aligned strain gauges. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to duplicate the strain gauges of the reference, since it has been held the

mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ8.

As to the strain gauges aligned in a radial plane that is at about 45 degrees or 135 degrees. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to reach such angles, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 9-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5,197,488                    3-1993                    Kovacevic

5,360,016                    11-1994                    Kovacevic

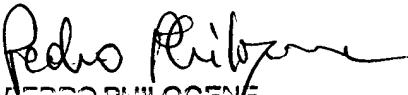
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272 - 4719. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Pedro Philogene  
January 19, 2007

  
PEDRO PHLOGENE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER